

## Message Text

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ORIGIN HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 AID-05 ABF-01 AGR-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 HUD-01

INR-07 INT-05 LOC-01 NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01

USIA-06 SMI-01 TRSE-00 FS-01 /067 R

DRAFTED BY: HEW/OIAM:JEHRMAN:GW  
APPROVED BY: OES/APT/BMP:WWALSH III  
HEW/OHD/OVA:PBEACH  
HEW/OIAM:LWYATT  
HEW/HD/RSA:RCARACCIOLO  
NEA/INS:BBROWN  
HEW/HD/RSA:AADAMS

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R 282243Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: HEW/RSA/SFCP - INDIAN PROPOSAL FOR SHIFT IN PROGRAM  
EMPHASIS

SUMMARY: INDIAN OFFICIAL HAS APPROACHED HEW/RSA WITH PROPOSAL TO  
SHIFT EMPHASIS OF SFC PROGRAM FROM RESEARCH TO "COMMUNITY ACTION."  
OFFICIAL CLAIMS CLOSE TIES TO MEE GHANDI, STATES SHE WANTS SHIFT  
IN EMPHASIS TO TAKE PLACE, URGES RSA MAKE SHIFT IN INTEREST  
IMPROVING US/INDIAN RELATIONS. BY IMPLICATION ALL HEW, AND PERHAPS  
ALL US GOVERNMENT, SFCP ACTIVITIES ARE OBJECTS OF THIS PROPOSAL.  
HEW UNABLE EVALUATE BONA FIDES OF INDIAN OFFICIAL'S CLAIM TO  
BE SPEAKING FOR MME GHANDI. END SUMMARY

1. DR. BALU SANKARAN, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF ORTHO-  
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PEDICS AND LONG-TIME INDIAN SPECIALIST IN REHABILITATION FIELD,

APPROACHED RSA COMMISSIONER ANDREW ADAMS APRIL 9 WITH PROPOSAL FOR SHIFTING EMPHASIS OF RSA'S SFC PROGRAM IN INDIA.

2. SANKARAN DEVELOPED THEME HE HAD SOUNDED SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER AT MARCH 29-APRIL 3 INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION CONGRESS AT CANNES: THAT US' SFC PROGRAM IN INDIA HAS PUT MONEY INTO "SHINY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE," IGNORING AREAS CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE WHERE MONEY IS BADLY NEEDED. HE PROPOSED THAT SFC PROGRAMMING BE REORIENTED TOWARD "COMMUNITY ACTION" OR "PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE" TYPE PROJECTS. DISCUSSING RSA'S WORK, HE ASKED COMMISSIONER ADAMS FOR THAT AGENCY'S COOPERATION WITH GOI ON MASSIVE LEPROSY REHABILITATION PROJECT, DEEMPHASIZING ALL OTHER INTERESTS IT CURRENTLY HAS IN INDIA.

3. SANKARAN CLAIMED CLOSE TIES WITH, AND FIRM BACKING OF, MME GHANDI IN SEEKING REDIRECTION OF RSA EFFORTS. HE STATED GOI WOULD MATCH RSA INVESTMENT IN LEPROSY PROJECT, RUPEE FOR RUPEE, MENTIONING \$1 MILLION AS AMOUNT IN RUPEE EQUIVALENT GOI HAD IN MIND. SANKARAN ALLEGED HE HAD ASSURANCE FROM MME GHANDI THAT MONEY WOULD COME FROM DEFENSE BUDGET, OR ELSEWHERE, IF RSA WILLING INVEST OWN FUNDS TO THIS PURPOSE.

4. SANKARAN IMPRESSED ON COMMISSIONER ADAMS POTENTIAL SUCH PROGRAMMING SHIFT WOULD HAVE FOR 'GOING A LONG WAY' TOWARD IMPROVING CURRENTLY FRAYED US/INDIAN RELATIONS.

5. COMMISSIONER ADAMS DID NOT ATTEMPT DISCOURAGE PROPOSAL, REQUESTED SANKARAN RESTATE IT IN WRITING. SANKARAN AGREED, SAID HE WOULD SEND LETTER TO DHEW FORMALLY MAKING REQUEST FOR PROGRAMMING SHIFT. LETTER PRESUMABLY WILL INDICATE IF SANKARAN'S PROPOSAL AIMS SOLELY AT RSA OR ALSO AT OTHER DHEW AND US GOVERNMENT SFCP RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

6. COMMENT: IN SUGGESTING RSA DEEMPHASIZE ITS CURRENT INTERESTS IN INDIA, SANKARAN SEEMED TO ADVOCATE THAT EXISTING GRANT CONTRACTS BE BROKEN -- A STEP WHICH MUST BE AS UNACCEPTABLE TO MANY IN GOI AS IT IS TO HEW. ALTHOUGH RSA IS FAMILIAR WITH SANKARAN AS PROFESSIONAL WITH WHOM IT HAS PREVIOUSLY DELT, IT IS IN NO POSITION TO EVALUATE BONA FIDES OF HIS CLAIM TO BE CLOSE TO MME GHANDI AND TO BE REPRESENTING HER VIEWS. SISCO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REHABILITATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** TPHY, OSCI, PFOR, IN, US  
**To:** NEW DELHI  
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